(e) According to the information furnsihed by Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, who are concerned with this subject, the National policy on Children was formulated in 1974 and the provisions thereof are being implemented by the Government of India through its various schemes and programmes, for example, Integrated Child Development Service by the Department of Women and Child Development, District Primary Education programme by the Department of Education, Implementation of Juvenile Justice Act by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Reproductive Child Health by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare etc. The Department of Women and Child Development has also formulated National Plan of Action for Children in 1992 which contains the goals and objectives to be achieved by the year 2000. The Government has also acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 11th December 1992 and since then is looking after the implementation of the CRC in the country regularly. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also implementing a scheme called "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" to prevent destitution of children and facilitate their withdrawal from the life on the streets. Under this programme, a project called 'childline', which is a 24 hour free telephone service for children in need, has been started. Any child or a concerned adult on his behalf can dial 1098 to access the service with the assurance that some one who cares is just a phone call away. The service is presently operational in eleven cities of the country and is expected to be avilable in 30 cities by the end of the year 2001. The Ministry has constituted childline India Foundation as the agency to develop and support the Childline services across the country. The Ministry is also examining the Juvenile justice Act 1986, with a view to bringing in qualitative improvement in the services provided in this Act and to bring it in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to which India is a signatory.

**Assets of Various National Finance and Development Corporation**

3160. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the assets/corpus/capital of the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation, the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the SC & ST Finance and Development Corporation respectively;

(b) the work done by the NMFDC so far for minority community-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to accelerate the work of NMFDC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Details are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) Since its inception in September, 1994, NMDFC have disbursed Rs. 224.34 crores to over 66,800 beneficiaries belonging to the minority communities so far. Communities-wise figures as on 31-3-99 are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 83].

(c) NMDFC has launched its new lending policy from 1-4-99 with the objective to accelerate the credit delivery to the targeted beneficiaries.

Under the new policy, the State Channelising Agencies of NMDFC have been delegated the authority to sanction and finance needbased schemes with unit cost upto Rs. 50,000 without prior approval of NMDFC.

Besides, efforts are being made to identify additional Channelising agencies in each State with a view to cover greater number of beneficiaries.

A parallel channel of micro-financing through NGOs has been introduced from 1-4-98. Under the Scheme, micro-credit upto a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per beneficiary is provided to members of Self-Help Groups through Non Governmental Organisations.

STATEMENT

*Assets of Various National Finance and Development Corporations*

(Rs. in Crores)

| Name of the Corporation | Assets | Paid up Share Capital |
|---|---|---|
| National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation | 237.55 | 209.83 |
| National Backward Finance and Development Corporation | 464.93 | 390.40 |
| SC/ST Finance and Development Corporation | 546.00 | 411.00 |